

Pastor Mark Mikels - September 20, 2020

"DEPLOYING HOPE IN THE REALITIES OF LIFE"

"THE CHURCH EXPRESSES THE GLORY OF GOD"

(Revelation 21:1, 11)

Intro ... "Deploying Hope in the Realities of life" ... that's what this series of messages is about ... Our format is the same each week.

MY HOPE DISCOVERED ... (Make these personal - "My")

*"And I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a **BRIDE** beautifully dressed for her **HUSBAND** ...*

*It shone with the **GLORY** of God and its **BRILLIANCE** was like that of a very precious **JEWEL** ..."*

(Revelation 21:2,11)

Today's hope is discovered in that awesome revelation given to the Apostle John ...

John '**saw**' in this vision the final expression of the Bride of Christ ... Prepared and ready to be presented to her Savior, her partner for life ... Fully mature, beautifully dressed, ready to take her place at his side and be pledged to him forever. She will shine with the very glory that God alone can give ...

She surely took John's breath away! She was depicted in her final form as a glorious city - the New Jerusalem which contained the saints of all the ages - all redeemed, all glorified, all of them spotless and pure!

That's my hope of the day **discovered** ...

Here now is ...

MY HOPE DEFINED ... (Put it into 'expectant' form.)

*"There is coming a day when the entire universe will be overwhelmed with the **BEAUTY** and **MAGNIFICENCE** of Christ's **BRIDE** - His Glorious **CHURCH**."*

There will be nothing in all the universe to match her ... She will be the end result of all God's '*Mysterious Purposing*' and '*Breathtaking Strategizing*' and '*Brilliantly Tactical Maneuvering*' ...

She will be the culmination of all of God's '*Almost Infinitely Patient*' dealings with mankind.

The entire universe will finally see and understand - will be overwhelmed with awe and wonder! All Born-Again people will be part of it and will be caught up in the glory of that moment!

Let your heart and mind open to embrace it.

Allow that '*Hope*' to become one of those '*Anchor Chains*' that keep you stable and secure in the midst of the uncertainties of life.

Now, how can we '*Deploy*' this very hope in our daily lives - How can it be put to use?

How about this for a possible '*Deployment*'?

MY HOPE DEPLOYED ... (Release this '*Hope*' into your life)

Since there is coming a day when the ***GLORY*** of Christ's ***CHURCH*** will overwhelm the Universe, I will ***SEEK*** out and ***REVEL*** in its ***GLORY*** even now!

Let me tell you that that is a seldom chosen deployment ...

There are so many '*Church-Bashers*' today ...
So many who focus upon the easily found faults of churches ...

Too often the present-day church resembles more an awkward early-teen girl than the perfectly put together mature, breathtakingly beautiful woman that she might well someday be ...

And we know that that is because we who make up the church today are mere spiritual adolescents ... Compared to what we shall be, we fall far short but here's the thing ... Compared to what we once were, we are already pretty awesome.

I have devoted my life to the service of Christ's Church - for the past 26 years to the service of this one: *Sonlife* Community Church.

Let me tell you on this Anniversary Sunday that there are things that cause me to revel in the '*Glories*' that I see in the present-day Church of Jesus Christ ...

These are things that can be found in every congregation of Born-Again People ...

These are things that I have definitely found in *Sonlife* Community Church ... These are things that cause me to '*Revel*' with delight ... that give '*Credence*' to my hope.

Let me share *three* of them with you this morning ...

THREE GLORIES THAT SHOULD CAUSE US TO 'REVEL' ...

1. REVEL in the Glory of Men and Women ***SAVED*** from ***SIN*** and ***DEATH***
"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus because ... the Spirit of life set me free from ... sin and death." - Romans 8:1-2

I can't tell you how ***glorious*** it is to me to see even one whom I know has been saved from Sin and Death because they have heard and received the Good News of Forgiveness and Cleansing proclaimed in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. How ***more*** glorious is it to look at a room full of those who have.

How ***glorious*** indeed to look back over 26 years in this fellowship and see 100's who have.

How ***glorious*** to see joy on your face and sense peace in your heart and to hear confidence in your voice as you testify of your faith in Jesus' Great Sacrifice on Calvary.

The Church of Jesus Christ is a glorious company of those who have been saved from sin and death ... a company of those who, by the faithful work of God, have been placed on the path that ultimately leads to the moment John himself gloried in ... the Descent of the Glorious Bride of Christ down to The New Earth that God the Father will one day bring forth.

See and '*revel*' in the Glory of that!

Secondly,

2. **REVEL** in the Glory of men and women **SUSTAINED** through **LIFE**
"My Grace is sufficient for you" - 2 Corinthians 12:9

This too is a Glorious thing if you take the time to recognize and reflect upon it - it's especially glorious when you get to experience it.

We live out our lives on this old, sin-filled, God-Cursed earth. If anything can go wrong, it will ... We know that. We shouldn't be surprised by that ... Both the believer and the unbeliever experience the disappointments and the dangers of life in this world of ours.

But here is where the ***Glory*** arises in the Church of Jesus Christ. Christ's '*Bride in Preparation*' looks for Sustaining Grace and finds it.

And when we observe '*God's Grace added to the situation*' providing strength and comfort to the one going through the situation, we recognize the '***Glory***' and we can even '***Revel***' in it.

This it has been my privilege to do again and again over the years. God's '***More than Sufficient***' Grace is truly a Glorious thing to observe.

And now ***thirdly*** on this Anniversary Sunday as we seek for ways to '***Deploy the Hope***' regarding the Glory of the Completed Church of Jesus Christ, I say ...

3. **REVEL** in the Glory of men and women **SANCTIFIED** by the **SPIRIT**
"And we are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory" ..."
(2 Corinthians 3:18)

Being '***Transformed into the likeness of Christ***' is the very way that the awkward '*adolescent*' becomes Christ's Beautiful Bride. '***Keeping in Step with the Spirit***' is how that transformation happens.

Seeing it happen and seeing the results of it is something '***Glorious beyond words***' - something in which you can '***Revel***.'

Final Thot ...

Don't **WAIT** 'til heaven to get impressed with Christ's **CHURCH!**
Look at it through **HIS EYES** even now!